



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: LOLA POTTER

TENNCARE RESUMES ELIGIBILITY UPDATES

MEMBERS NOW HAVE 60 DAYS TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT OR LOSE BENEFITS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—TennCare is resuming eligibility checks for members who came into the program as "uninsured" or "uninsurable."

"We need to obtain information about our members, especially those who haven't been updated, so that only people who are currently eligible for TennCare remain in the program," said TennCare director Mark Reynolds. "We ask employers to provide employees with information to update member employment and income information with TennCare."

On December 21, 2001 TennCare sent letters to about 10,000 uninsured and uninsurable members, telling them to make an appointment at their local Tennessee Department of Health office within the next 60 days to update their eligibility status. They will be asked to bring information with them about their employment, residency, family and income. Members who do not make appointments within 60 days of receiving the letters will lose their TennCare benefits, with 30 days to appeal. TennCare will gradually increase the number of letters sent to non-Medicaid members until the state is regularly checking the eligibility status of about 60,000 of these members each month.

TennCare is asking family caregivers and others who help people with TennCare to make sure TennCare has their current mailing address and that they respond to their update request. An incorrect address could lead to a member losing their TennCare benefits. TennCare members can report any change of address, employment, or income at any time by calling the TennCare Information Line at 1-800-669-1851. Change of address forms are also available on the TennCare web site at: <http://www.tennessee.gov/tenncare/adrescge.htm>.

About 670,000 of TennCare's members qualified for the program as "uninsured" or "uninsurable," and the bureau of TennCare is responsible for tracking their eligibility. The Department of Human Services (DHS) maintains eligibility information for people who are Medicaid-eligible.

TennCare is the state's managed Medicaid program for 1.47 million people who are eligible for Medicaid, or are uninsured or uninsurable.

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STATE CAPITOL, 1ST FLOOR
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
615.741.2401